

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 have been amended. Claims 4, 11 and 18 have been cancelled.

Therefore, claims 1, 6-8, 13-15 and 20-25 are presented for examination.

Claims 8, 11, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as a single means claim. Further, claims 1, 4, and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that claim 1 has been amended to appear in proper condition for allowance. Further, the rejections regarding claim 8 have been obviated by the cancellation of claim 8.

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, 13-15, 18 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araujo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,350), in view of Milbrandt (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,120). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Araujo in view of Milbrandt.

Araujo discloses methods for detecting a protocol used on a link and for automatically configuring the link. For example, to help avoid requiring a craftsperson to configure each link between a subscriber and the central office, the invention includes a method for automatically determining a protocol used by the customer premises equipment. This information can then be used to automatically configure the link to use the protocol used by the customer premises equipment. The invention also includes the method for configuring the link by negotiating between the customer premises equipment and the central office such that a protocol is used on the link that helps to provide efficient transmission over the link and through a backbone network coupled to the central office. For example, if the customer

premises equipment initially uses a frame-based protocol and the backbone network coupled to the central office uses a cell-based protocol, then the central office equipment negotiates with the customer premises equipment to use a cell-based protocol over the link. The use of the same or related protocol over the link as on the backbone network helps to improve the efficiency of transmission over the link and the backbone network by reducing the amount of computation required at the central office to translate between protocols. See Araujo at col. 5, ll. 16-40

Milbrandt discloses a communication device supporting an Ethernet protocol. See Milbrandt at col. 5, ll. 3.

Claim 1 of the present application recites invoking a plug and play (PnP) protocol manager to initiate loading of one or more drivers into memory. Applicant submits that nowhere in Araujo or Milbrandt is there disclosed or suggested a process of selecting a PnP protocol manager. Therefore, any combination of Araujo and Milbrandt would not disclose or suggest such a feature. As a result, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Araujo in view of Milbrandt.

Claims 8 and 15 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, claims 8 and 15, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over Araujo in view of Milbrandt for reasons similar to those recited in claim 1.

Claim 22 of the present application recites a circuit board that includes a circuit card slot that is capable of coupling the circuit card to the circuit board.

Applicant submits that neither Araujo nor Milbrandt disclose or suggest a circuit board that includes a circuit card slot that is capable of coupling a circuit card to a circuit board. Accordingly, any combination of Araujo and Milbrandt would not disclose or suggest

such a feature. As a result, claim 22 and its dependent claims are patentable over Araujo in view of Milbrandt.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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